

ANNIVERSARY

ANNIVERSARY TIME THOUGHTS PROFESSOR PETRE GHERGHE, PHD. TURNS 75 YEARS OLD

This year, Professor Petre Gherghe, PhD. turns 75 years old, and a long period of time, over 50 years, he dedicated himself to archaeological research and later, to an important university teaching career.

He was born on January 1, 1947 in Buicești, Butoiești commune, Mehedinți county and attended the Faculty of History and Philosophy of “Babeș-Bolyai” University in Cluj-Napoca, which he graduated in 1973. His passion for history and archaeology made him continue his doctoral studies, receiving the title of Doctor of History (1995) with the thesis “Contribution to the Knowledge of the Geto-Dacian Civilization from Oltenia” held at the National Institute of Tracology, Bucharest – scientific supervisor Professor Dumitru Berciu, PhD., Docent.

Guided by his passion for archaeology, he began his work at the Gorj County Museum in Târgu Jiu, then continuing at the Romanian Academy – Center for Social and Political Sciences, today the “C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor” Institute for Socio-Human Research from Craiova. In the period 1988–1990 he was the director of the Oltenia Museum in Craiova, so that, beginning with 1991, he moved towards a university teaching career at the Faculty of History, Philosophy and Geography, University of Craiova, where he will be vice-dean from 2008 until retirement.

Academic activity was, along with actual archaeological research, a permanent concern for him. He was the holder of the Bachelor's courses: Ancient History of Romania, Introduction to Archaeology, General Prehistory, General Museology (for the specializations History and History of a Foreign Language), History of Human Society (for the specialization Sociology, 2005–2008) and Master's courses: Dacia and the Roman Empire, Roman Archeology and Museology (in the specialization Research and preservation of historical testimonies), Archaeological testimonies and Greco-Roman sources relating to the Carpatho-Danubian area (in the specialization Reception of Greco-Roman antiquity in Greco-Roman culture – Faculty of Letters). As the scientific manager of the Sucidava Archaeological Site in the period 1996–2014, he was concerned with the training of students in the field of archaeology. Some of the archaeologists of the new generation, those who trained as students of the University of Craiova, can say that they started their activity in the field of archaeology on the site – school in Sucidava, led for almost 20 years by Professor Petre Gherghe, PhD.

The archaeological research he carried out mainly concerned the Dacian, Roman and Romano-Byzantine eras with the excavations carried out on 30 archaeological

sites, 16 of which in Gorj county, 6 in Dolj, 4 in Mehedinți, 2 in Olt and 2 in Vâlcea county. They are also joined by the – scientific manager Prof. Ion Barnea in Adamclisi and in Capidava by the scientific manager Prof. Radu Florescu, in Dobrogea and on the Sarmizegetusa Regia construction site and in the Orăștiei Mountains – by Prof. Hadrian Daicoviciu.

We also underline that even now Professor Petre Gherghe is part of the research teams of two large archaeological sites from the Roman era, Sucidava – Celei district, Corabia city and Romula – the capital of the Dacia Malvensis province – in the village of Reșca, Dobosloveni commune, both in Olt county, recognized nationally and internationally for their historical importance.

Regarding the scientific valorisation of the research, it can be found in the communications presented at the 275 scientific sessions, symposia, colloquiums, national and international congresses and in the more than 160 studies and articles published in specialized journals (local, national and international), collective volumes, press, cultural and popularization magazines. He has also published 17 books (as author, co-author, collaborator) and one edited volume.

Among the books he has published, or collaborated on, I would like to emphasize the one entitled *Așezări și cetăți geto-dacice din Oltenia – Geto-Dacian Settlements and Fortresses from Oltenia*, Universitaria Publishing House, Craiova, 1997, prefaced by Professor, PhD., Dumitru Berciu. In this work, the author included a large part of the intensive research work carried out in order to obtain the title of doctor in history with the thesis “Contribution to the Knowledge of the Geto-Dacian civilization from Oltenia” (delivered at the National Institute of Trachology, Bucharest – scientific supervisor Prof. Dumitru Berciu, PhD.). It is a well-documented synthesis work that provides us with clear and valuable information about the Geto-Dacian civilization of Oltenia.

Later, the image of this period, but also of the Roman era, was completed by the *Repertoriul informațiilor și descoperirilor arheologice din Oltenia. Epoca Latène – Repertory of Archaeological Information and Discoveries from Oltenia. Latène Epoch*, Universitaria Publishing House, Craiova, 2001, *History of Craiova. Mărturii arheologice și numismatice – Archaeological and Numismatic Testimonies* (Petre Gherghe, L. Amon), Universitaria Publishing House, Craiova, 2010, *Roman and Romano-Byzantine rushlights discovered in the territory of Sucidava – Opaițele romane și romano-bizantine descoperite în teritoriul Sucidavei* – (Petre Gherghe, Mirela Cojoc), Universitaria Publishing House, Craiova, 2011, *Dicționarul istoric al localităților din județul Dolj – Historical Dictionary of Localities from Dolj county*, vol. I, A-C (366 p.); II, D-M (378 p.); III, N-V (360 p.), Alma Publishing House, Craiova, 2004 (collaborator), *Așezarea și necropola geto-dacică de la Spahii-Câmpul Spahiului, jud. Gorj – The Geto-Dacian settlement and necropolis in Spahii-Câmpul Spahiului, Gorj county*, Măiastra Publishing House, Tg. Jiu, 2015, *Opaițele romane de la Acidava și Rusidava, județul Olt – Roman Rushlights from Acidava and Rusidava, Olt county*,

(Petre Gherghe, Mirela Cojoc, Laurențiu Comănescu), MJM Autograph Publishing House, Craiova, 2019.

At the same time, the concern for training the new generation of archaeologists led him to publish a significant number of university courses: *General Prehistory*, University of Craiova Printing House, Craiova, 1994, *Introduction to Archeology*, University of Craiova Printing House, Craiova, 2000 and another edition, Craiova 2008, *Ancient History of Romania*, vol. I, Printing House of the University of Craiova, Craiova, 2003, *General Museology*, 2008, *Ancient History of Romania*, vol. II, Printing House of the University of Craiova, Craiova, 2010, *Ancient History of Romania*, vol. II, Tipografia Mirror, Craiova, 2012.

Professor Petre Gherghe managed to combine exemplary university didactic activity with archaeological research, something that can also be seen from his participation in over 275 scientific sessions, symposia, colloquiums, national and international congresses.

I previously mentioned that part of the archaeological research activity was linked to the “C.S. Nicolăescu Plopsor” Institute of Socio-Human Research from Craiova of the Romanian Academy, not only by the fact that he worked here as a researcher in the 80^s, but also by the articles and studies he published in the institute's journal – “Arhivele Olteniei”. Since the “C.S. Nicolăescu Plopsor” Institute of Socio-Human Research celebrated in 2022 the 100th anniversary of the publication of the first issue of the “Arhivele Olteniei” journal, I am pleased to remember together with numerous cultural and scientific personalities who have contributed over time to shaping the profile of this magazine and that Professor Petre Gherghe with some of his articles: *Archaeological Research and Discoveries Regarding the Geto-Dacian Civilization on the Territory of Gorj county*, in “Arhivele Olteniei”, 2, 1983, pp. 49–73, *Evidence of Dacian continuity in the Roman settlement from Săcelu*, in “Arhivele Olteniei”, 4, 1985, pp. 47–57, *Archaeological Discoveries from the Geto-Dacian Era at Socu-Barbăți, Gorj county*, in “Arhivele Olteniei”, 5, 1986, pp. 77–88, *The Geto-Dacian Settlement from Cernele-Craiova*, in “Arhivele Olteniei”, 6, 1989, pp. 42–53.

As a recognition of the contribution to the institutional development and the scientific contribution, Professor Petre Gherghe, PhD. was appointed in 2021 as an honorary researcher of the Institute of Socio-Human Research “C.S. Nicolăescu-Ploșor” from Craiova of the Romanian Academy.

Belonging to a generation of intellectuals who totally dedicated himself to his profession, but also to the noble mission of training new generations of archaeologists and researchers in the field of history, his “reign” was for all an example of seriousness, professionalism and honesty.

“Happy birthday” and may you live many years in good health and full of achievements, dear professor!

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